

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for the manufacture of patterned microparticles, comprising immobilising microparticles to be patterned on a surface of a porous membrane, causing a coating material which can bind to exposed surfaces of said microparticles, and which can permeate through the pores of said membrane, to flow relative to said immobilised microparticles, and removing the microparticles from the membrane following binding of said coating material.

2. (Original) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the microparticles are nanoparticles.

3. (Original) A method according to Claim 2, wherein the immobilised nanoparticles are nanospheres.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-3~~ claim 1, wherein the microparticles are composed of silica or latex.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the surface of the microparticles is chemically modified to facilitate binding of the coating material thereto.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the coating material is composed of nanoparticles.

7. (Original) A method according to Claim 6, wherein the nanoparticles are inorganic nanoparticles.

8. (Original) A method according to Claim 7, wherein the nanoparticles are gold nanoparticles.

9. (Original) A method according to Claim 8, wherein the gold nanoparticles are citrate-stabilised gold nanoparticles.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-6~~ claim 1, wherein the coating material is comprised of nanoparticles of an organic material.

11. (Original) A method according to Claim 10, wherein the coating material is comprised of nanoparticles of a biomolecular material.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the membrane is a high porosity alumina membrane with the pores arranged in a hexagonal array.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the microparticles to be patterned are spin-coated onto the membrane surface.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the coating material comes into contact with the immobilised microparticles prior to filtration and excess coating material passes through the pores of the membrane.

15. (Original) A method according to Claim 14, wherein a differential pressure is applied to the membrane during said flow of the coating material relative to the immobilised microparticles.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim ~~14 or 15~~, wherein a flow rate greater than $1.5\text{cm}^3/\text{min}$ is used during filtration of the coating material through said membrane.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-13~~ claim 1, wherein the coating material comes into contact with the immobilised microparticles following passage through the pores of the membrane.

18. (Original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the flow of coating material through the membrane is by means of gravity.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the flow of coating material through the membrane is by means of an electric field.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 17, wherein the flow of coating material through the membrane is by means of a magnetic field.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 17-20~~ claim 17, wherein the mean diameter of the immobilised microparticles exceeds the membrane pore diameter so as to restrict the number of pores in direct contact therewith.

22. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the coated immobilised microparticles are contacted with a solution of a bi- functional molecule which can bind to said coating material so that a number of layers of coating material can be built up on the immobilised microparticles retained on said membrane.

23. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, wherein the coated microparticles are removed from the membrane by sonication.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any one of Claims 1-22~~ claim 1, wherein the coated microparticles are removed from the membrane by dissolution of the membrane.

25. (Original) An anisotropically, biologically modified patterned microparticle.

26. (Original) An anisotropically, biologically modified patterned nanoparticle.

27. (Original) An anisotropically, biologically modified patterned nanosphere.

28. (Currently Amended) A nanostructure assembled on an anisotropically, biologically modified patterned particle according to ~~any one of Claims 25-27~~ claim 25.

29. (Original) A nanostructure according to Claim 28, wherein the nanostructure is a nanowire.

CLAIMS 30-32 (CANCELLED)